

## "WAR MOTHERS" IN LONDON CHEER UP AMERICAN BOYS

The Real Mothers at Home Need Not Fear Soldier Sons Are Neglected.

Helen H. Hoffman

(Special Correspondent of The Evening World.)

LONDON, March 15.—Scores of American women in London are acting as "war mothers" to sick and wounded American boys who are brought to English hospitals.

It may be a comfort to American mothers to know that this group of women, under the direction of Mrs. Robert P. Skinner, wife of the American Consul General in London, is personally in touch with their boys and looking after their smallest interests.

In this way American boys, who early in the war joined up with the Canadian expeditionary forces, or cast their lot with "Kitcheners' Mob" are not left to feel that they are strangers in a strange land.

This work of looking after the "Sammy" in the British Army is known as the "Care Committee for Soldiers and Sailors," and is now a part of the American Red Cross.

The committee is quite remarkable in its perfection of methods for searching out these boys in the vast machinery of army organization. Hospital officers have been asked to notify the committee when an American arrives. And the big Veterans' Committee, under Mrs. Skinner, whose work of visiting the boys once or twice a week, is allied with the work of locating these boys through various channels.

SHE CARRIES A BUNDLE OF AMERICAN PAPERS. Mrs. Frank Hyde, a New York woman, now making her home in London, holds the record of the committee members for "discovering" American boys. Mrs. Hyde's thoroughness is illustrated by a recent visit to one of the big military hospitals where two of "her boys" were convalescing.

"Any new Americans?" she asked of the nurse on duty.

The nurse hadn't seen any.

Passing the office on her way out Mrs. Hyde made casual inquiry of the Sergeant. "Yes, there's one," he said. "He just came in."

Up the long stone staircase Mrs. Hyde retraced her steps and found him. He was a New York boy.

"I've been here a month and not a familiar face. Seems good to see some one from home. I played in a Broadway theatre orchestra and I should certainly be glad to see some New York papers."

Mrs. Hyde goes armed on every visit with a bundle of American newspapers, as the boys represent practically every State in the Union.

"I read everything, even the ads," one of the boys said. "It was the first home paper I had seen in two years."

Another boy had lost everything in a mine explosion. Mrs. Hyde made a careful pencil note of the articles needed. A razor, a comb and brush and soap, and lastly, cigarettes were added to the list.

At another hospital was a good looking youth from Detroit, Mich., whom Mrs. Hyde had been "mothering" for four months. With the physician's permission Mrs. Hyde had made arrangements to have the boy transferred to a fine English estate now owned by a well known American.

The boy was suffering from shell

## DIRECTS "WAR MOTHERS" IN MAKING COMFORTABLE U. S. BOYS IN LONDON



MRS. ROBERT P. SKINNER.

shock. "Four months ago when I met him he was suffering partial paralysis. When he spoke rapidly his speech would leave him. He's much better now. The country will strengthen his nerves," explained Mrs. Hyde.

At the headquarters of the committee, No. 151 New Bond Street, there are on file hundreds of records of these boys who have been befriended by the committee. And the committee keeps in touch with them until its usefulness is ended by either honorable discharge and return to the States or he is sent back to the trenches.

GOOD AMERICAN NAMES ON COMMITTEE LIST.

The work of the committee extends like a great network over England, and where a boy is too far away to be visited the committee gets in touch with him by letter. Mrs. Henry W. Thornton, a former New York woman, has proved herself a genius at this work, for responses to her letters number hundreds a month. Well known women on the committee include Miss Choate of New York, Miss Theodore Dodge of Boston, Miss Emily Dawson of Philadelphia, Mrs. Robert Cabell of Chicago, Mrs. Byron De Witt Miller and Mrs. Keith Merrill of Minneapolis.

Mrs. Merrill is in charge of the package department. Through a recent arrangement made with the British customs, parcels not exceeding ten pounds may be sent duty free to these boys through the Care Committee. These parcels may be sent by American relatives of the boys, or by the committee itself.

The same arrangement applies to American members of the Medical Officers Corps attached to British hospitals.

If the parcels are sent in care of the Care Committee of the American Red Cross, with the name, rank, regimental number and, if possible, battalion of the soldier, the committee will forward them to the men wherever they happen to be when the parcels arrive.

SOLDIER POETS SEND VERSES TO "MOTHERS."

Among the boys who correspond with the committee are several poets, who now and then send a sample of

## NEW JERSEY MILLS OWNED BY ENEMY SEIZED BY PALMER

Great Woollen Plants, Worth \$70,000,000, Are Taken Over by Custodian.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—Six great German owned New Jersey woollen mills, with a total valuation of more than \$70,000,000, have been taken over by the Alien Property Custodian, who has named governing boards of directors to assume control of them. The earnings of the properties during the war will go into the Federal Treasury for the purchase of Liberty bonds.

The mills taken over were announced by A. Mitchell Palmer, the Alien Property Custodian, as follows: The Passaic Woollen Spinning Mills, the Botany Woollen Spinning Company, the Fortmann and Hoffmann Company and the Gera Mills, all of Passaic, and the Garfield Woollen Mills of Garfield.

"Selling agents of German woollen firms in the Fatherland," said Mr. Palmer's announcement, "years ago built with German capital the first of this group of mills in order to escape the import duties on woollen goods. They brought over German machinery and German hands to operate the machines. The first mill was successful from the start, and the erection of the others followed in rapid order. The same interests figure largely in all the mills. Large blocks of stock are held by influential members of the Woollen Cartel in Germany."

"As the business of these Jersey mills thrived and expanded they formed, it appears, an association nominally for the purpose of securing experienced German labor, but which soon became a close organization of offensive and defensive alliance of the German woollen interests in this locality. Members of this organization purchased and conducted a daily newspaper, employed a representative to look out for its interests at Washington and to keep close touch upon the attitude of the public sentiment in all parts of the country."

Payment for overtime work, for which at present the employees receive no extra compensation, was increased on the following basis: Double time for Sundays and holidays, time and one fourth for the first two hours over the basic eight hours on week days and time and one-half for all time after ten hours' work. Between Jan. 14 and May 5, overtime pay was fixed at the rate of time and one-half after ten hours on week days and double time for Sundays.

Equal pay for male and for female employees doing the same class of work was ordered in the award. The employees' demand for a weekly guaranteed minimum of forty hours was granted.

Upon the induction of the basic eight-hour day, Arbitrator Alschuler stated, "the hourly wage rate shall be readjusted so that the compensation for a full eight-hour work day shall be equal to the pay for a full ten-hour day heretofore and piece-work rates shall be proportionately readjusted in accordance with the same principle."

The present average annual wage of \$450 for employees in packing houses was declared by Alschuler "inadequate for the ordinary needs of the average working man's family in the cities." In fact, he said, referring to living budgets presented in testimony and which ranged around \$1,400, Judge Alschuler declined to prescribe in detail the living standard.

While the award gave the employees only about one-third of the demand for a flat increase of \$1 per day, union leaders expressed themselves as immensely pleased because the eight-hour day was granted.

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## EIGHT-HOUR DAY AND WAGE BOOST IN PACKING HOUSES

Arbitration Also Puts Women and Men on Same Basis in Award.

CHICAGO, March 30.—The basic eight-hour day was ordered in the nation's packing industry by Federal Judge Samuel Alschuler's award in the packing arbitration today.

Wage increases ranging from 4 1-2 cents an hour to employees receiving 30 cents and under an hour at present, and ranging down to 3 1-2 cents per hour to employees being paid over 40 cents per hour, were also granted.

The eight-hour day goes into effect May 5, 1918, and the wage advances are retroactive, effective as of Jan. 14, 1918.

The award, which affects about 200,000 employees throughout the United States in 30 per cent. of the packing houses of the country, was regarded as a sweeping victory for the workers.

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